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KNUCKLES™

THE ECHIDNA



DIRECT EDITION



BOOK SEVENTEEN

DEEP COVER

PART ONE OF TWO

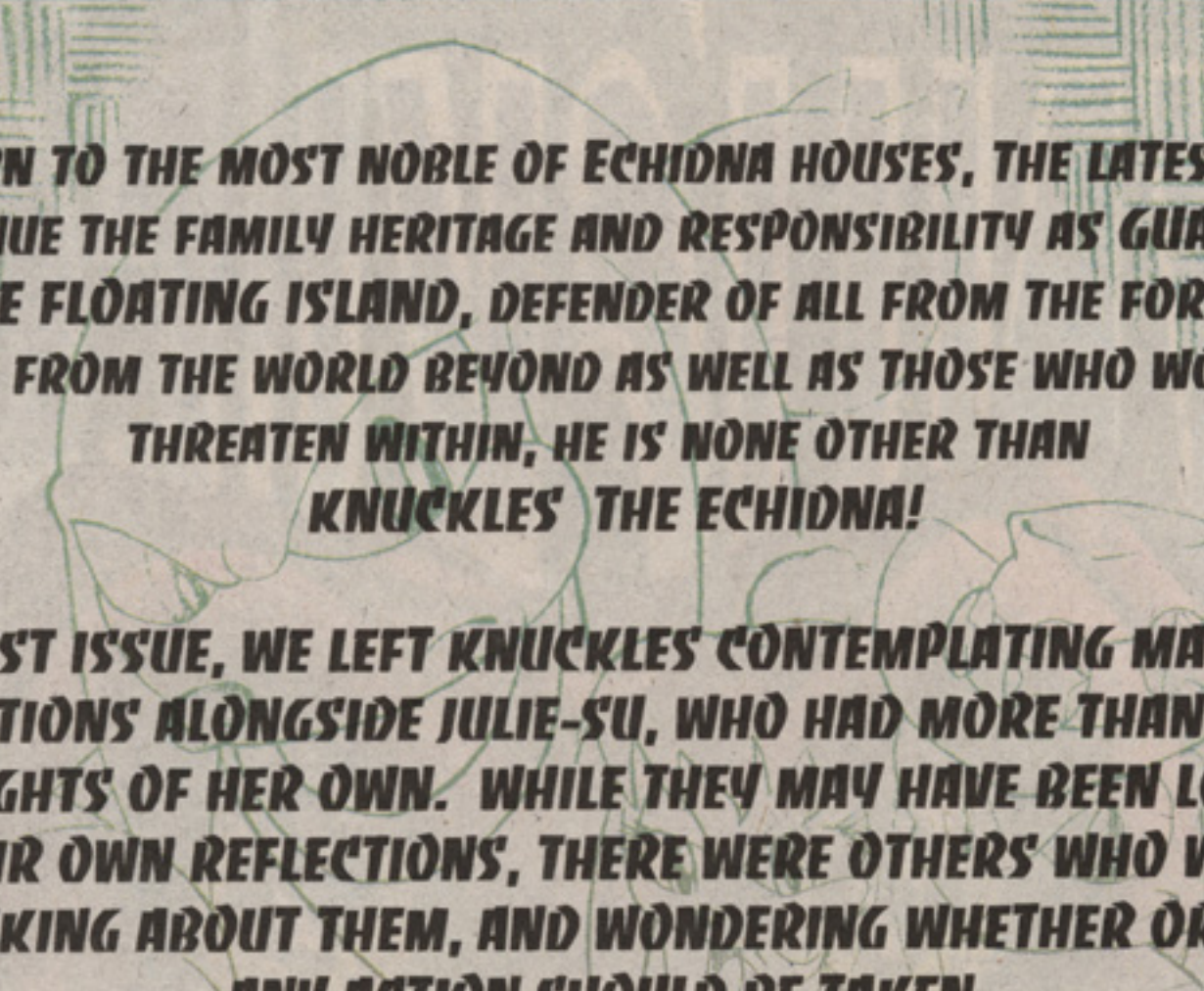
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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

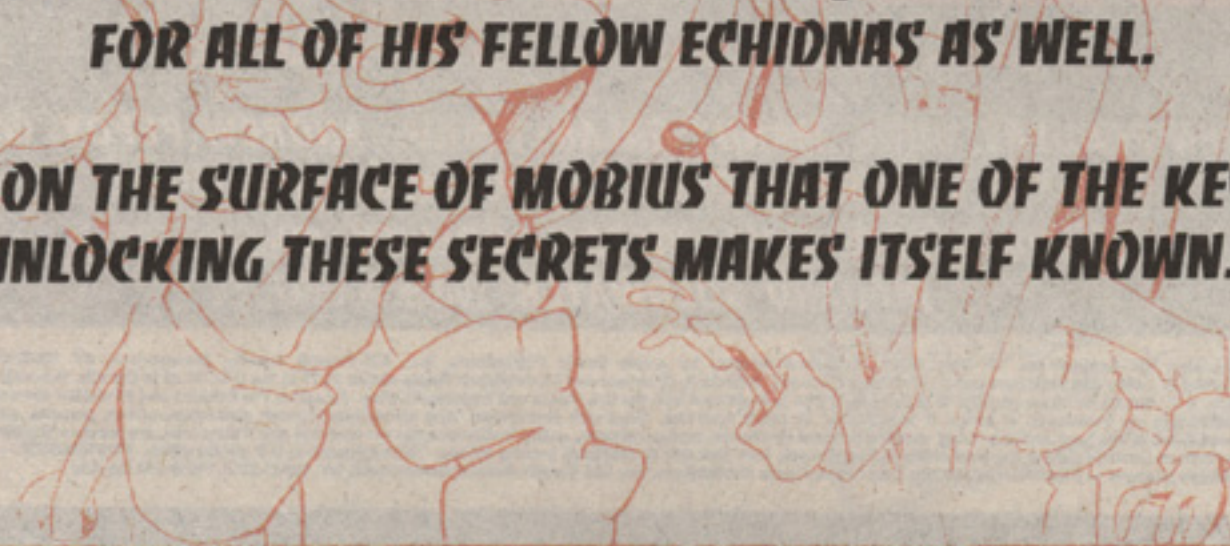
LAST ISSUE, WE LEFT KNUCKLES CONTEMPLATING MANY QUESTIONS ALONGSIDE JULIE-SU, WHO HAD MORE THAN A FEW THOUGHTS OF HER OWN. WHILE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN THEIR OWN REFLECTIONS, THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WERE THINKING ABOUT THEM, AND WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT ANY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

BECAUSE, YOU SEE, THESE OTHERS KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT KNUCKLES THAT NOT EVEN HE KNOWS... YET.

A SECRET SO MONUMENTAL, THAT IT COULD HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR MANY... ESPECIALLY FOR KNUCKLES.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR KNUCKLES, THERE ARE MANY OTHER SECRETS ABOUT HIS FAMILY HE DOES NOT YET KNOW, WHICH NOT ONLY COULD PORTEND DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIM, BUT FOR ALL OF HIS FELLOW ECHIDNAS AS WELL.

IT IS ON THE SURFACE OF MOBIUS THAT ONE OF THE KEYS TO UNLOCKING THESE SECRETS MAKES ITSELF KNOWN...



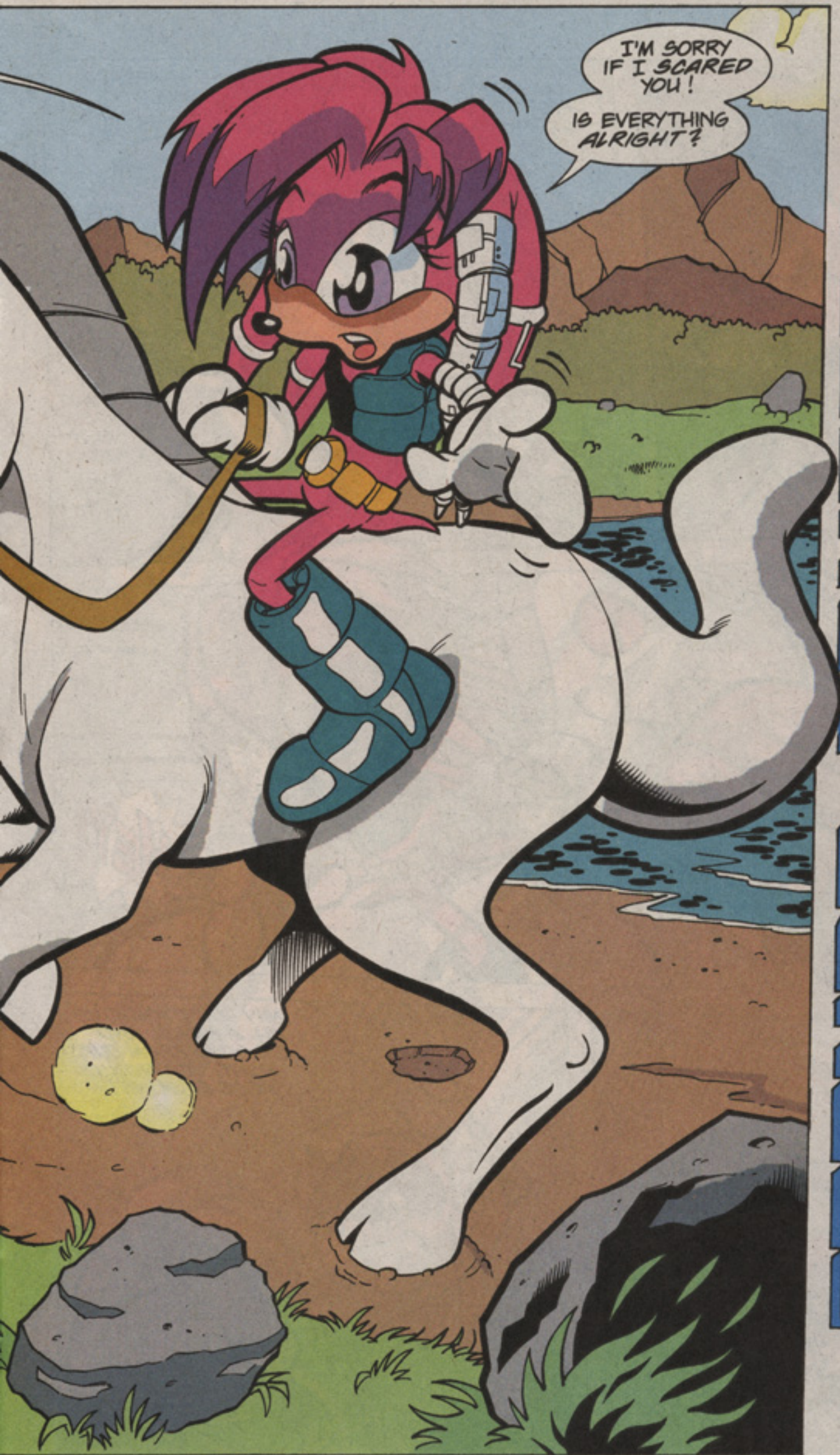


HELLO?

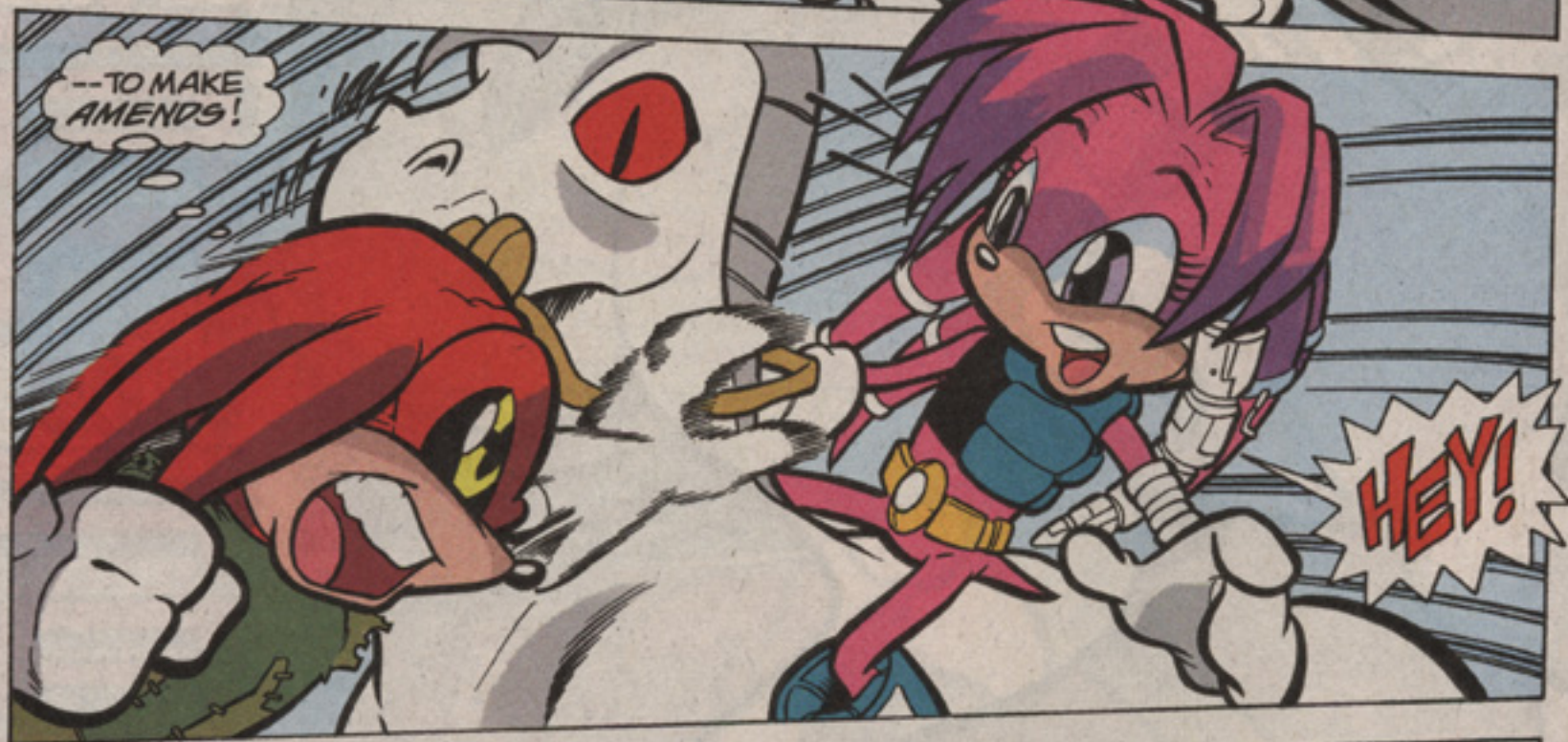
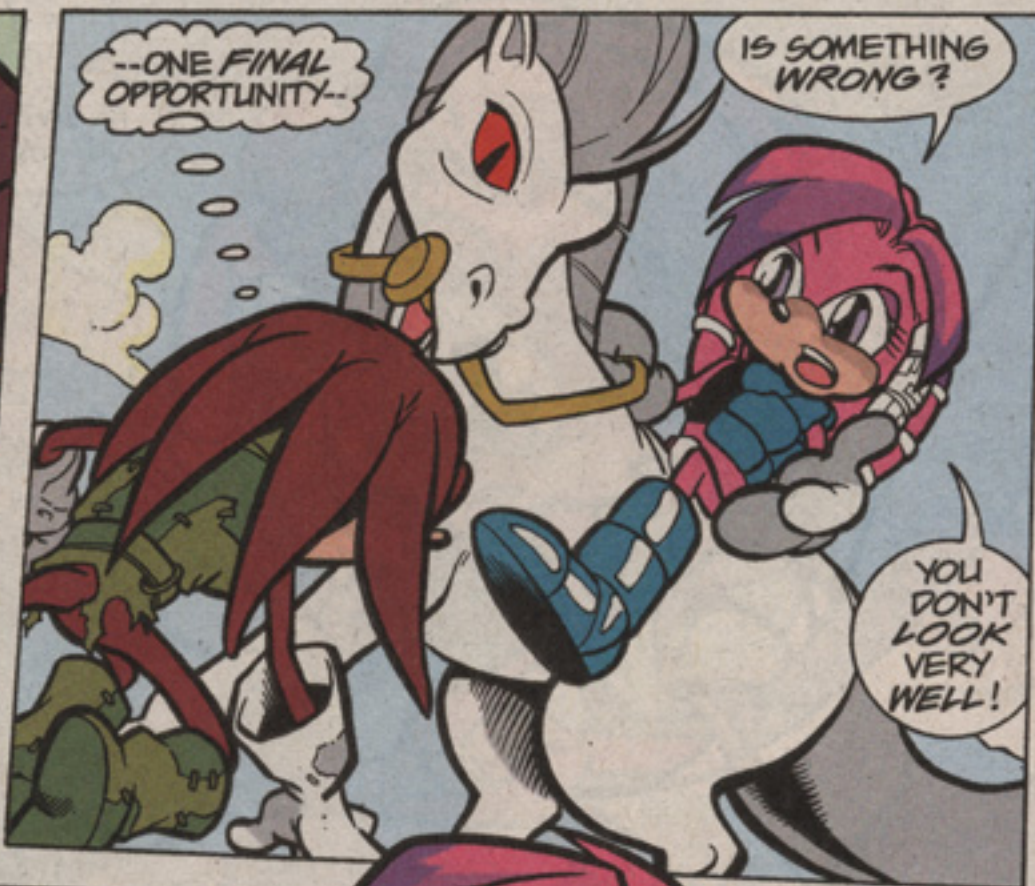
... A DARK
LEGIONNAIRE!!!

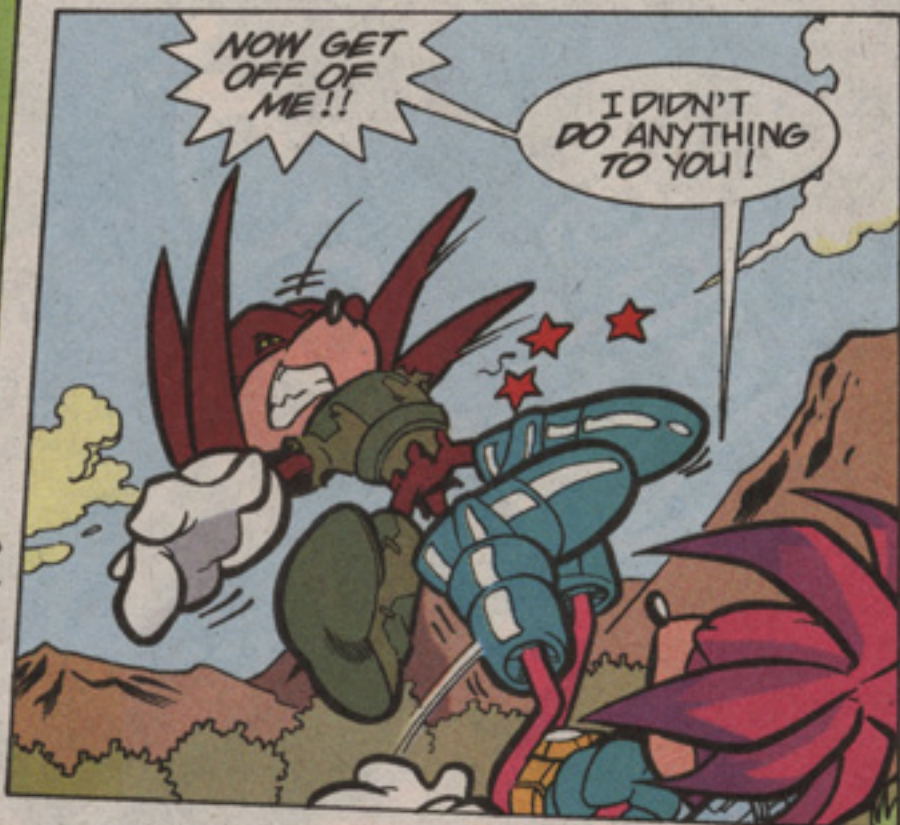
I MUST BE
GOING MAD!

FATE
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY BE
SO CRUEL
TO ME!

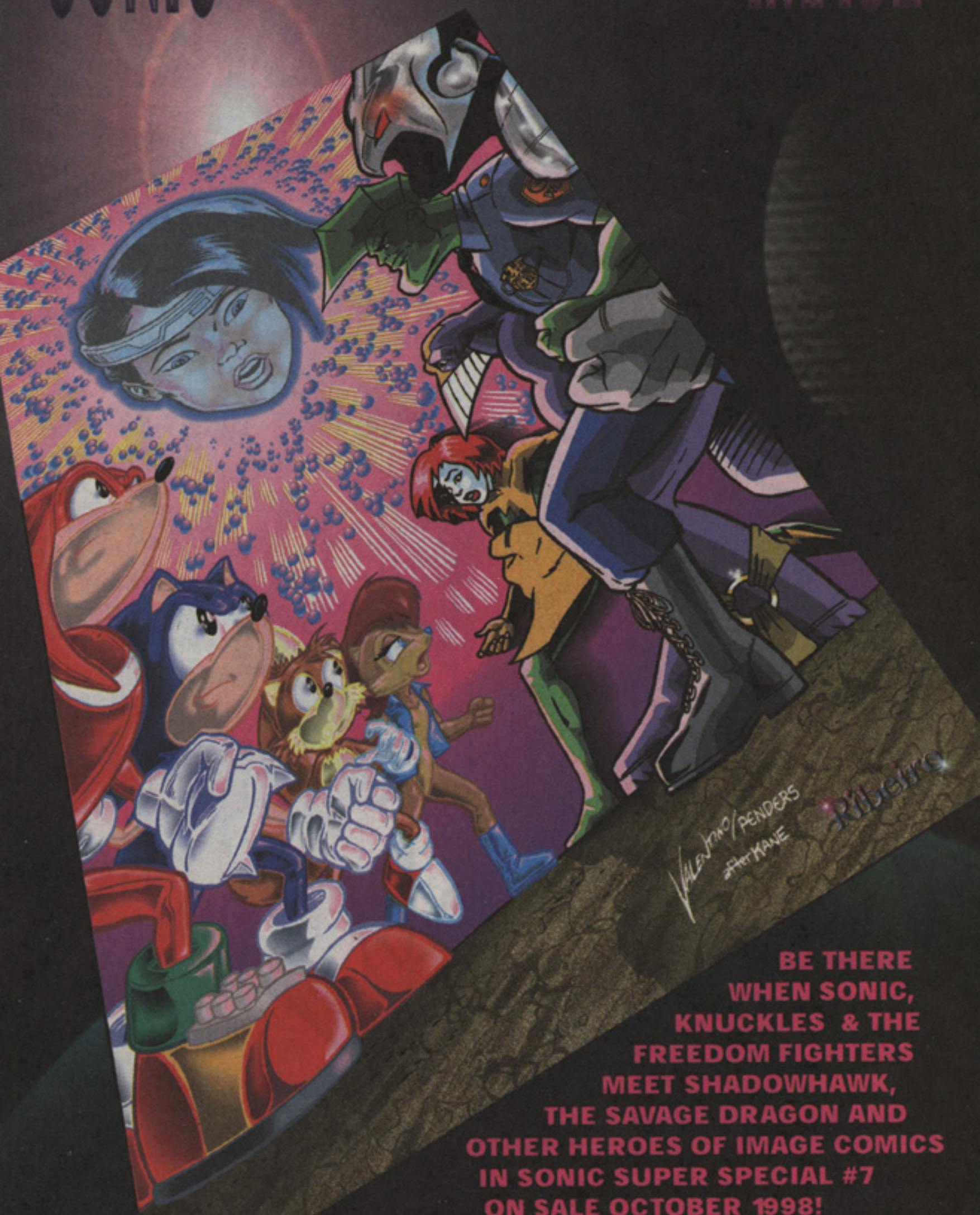


THE DOG WHO BIT

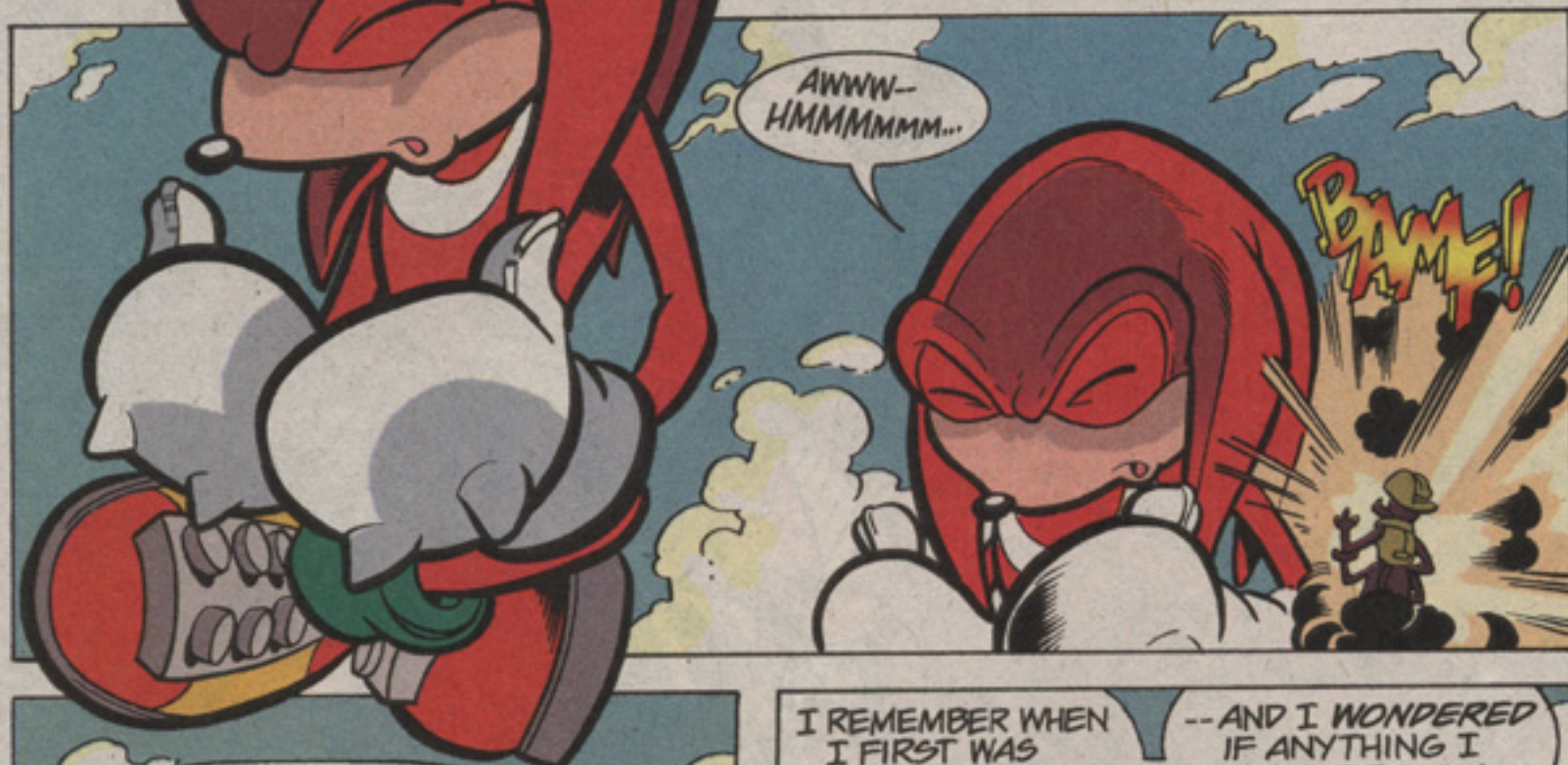




SONIC TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW IMAGE

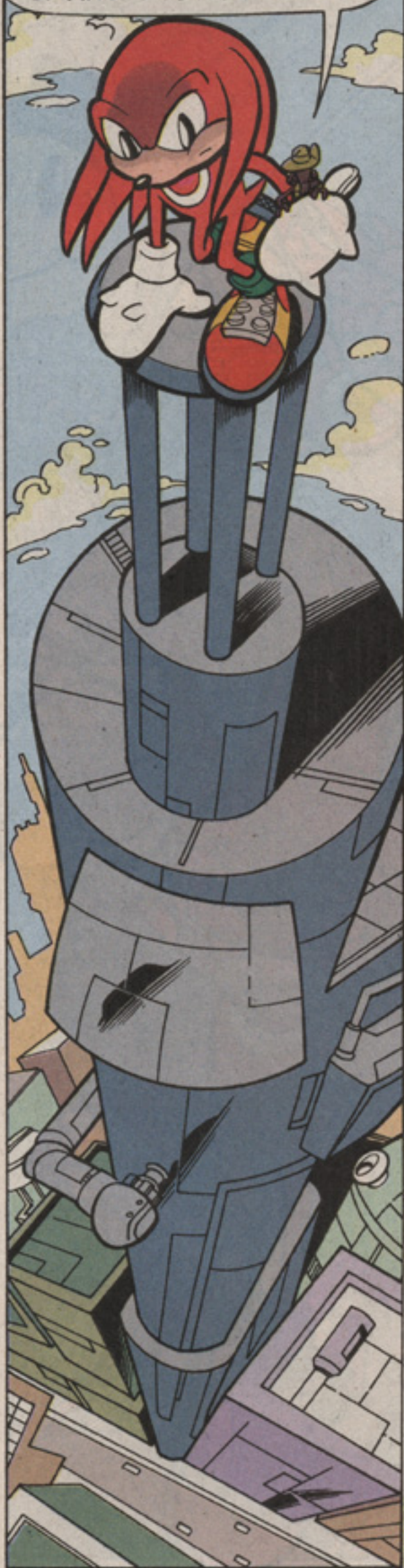


**BE THERE
WHEN SONIC,
KNUCKLES & THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
MEET SHADOWHAWK,
THE SAVAGE DRAGON AND
OTHER HEROES OF IMAGE COMICS
IN SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7
ON SALE OCTOBER 1998!**



* WAAAAAY BACK IN KNUCKLES #4--JUSTIN.

--THIS ISN'T WHAT I WOULD
CALL A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT!



Y'KNOW, ARCHY, I'D BE
LYING IF I SAID I
DIDN'T MISS YOU--

--BUT I'M
AFRAID A LOT'S
GONE DOWN
SINCE I LAST
SAW YOU!

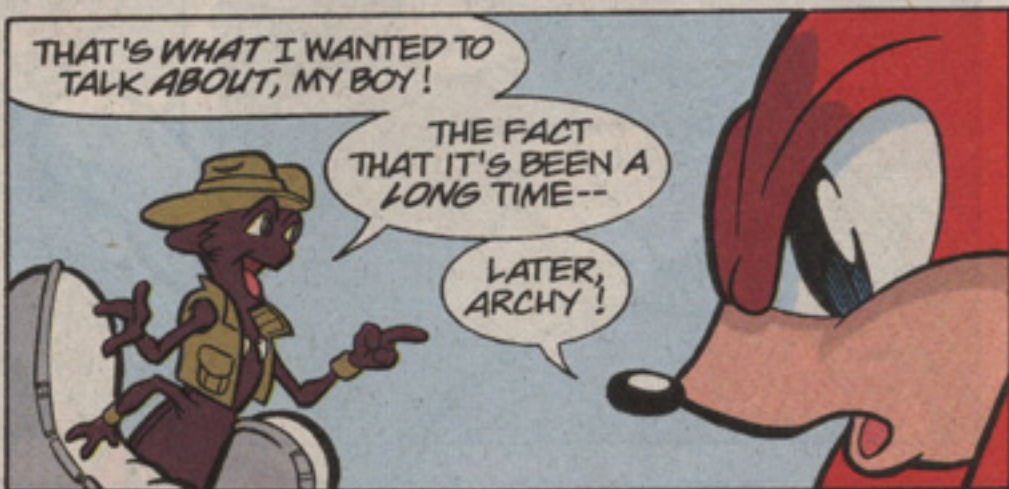
IT JUST
ISN'T THE SAME
ANYMORE!



THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO
TALK ABOUT, MY BOY!

THE FACT
THAT IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME--

LATER,
ARCHY!

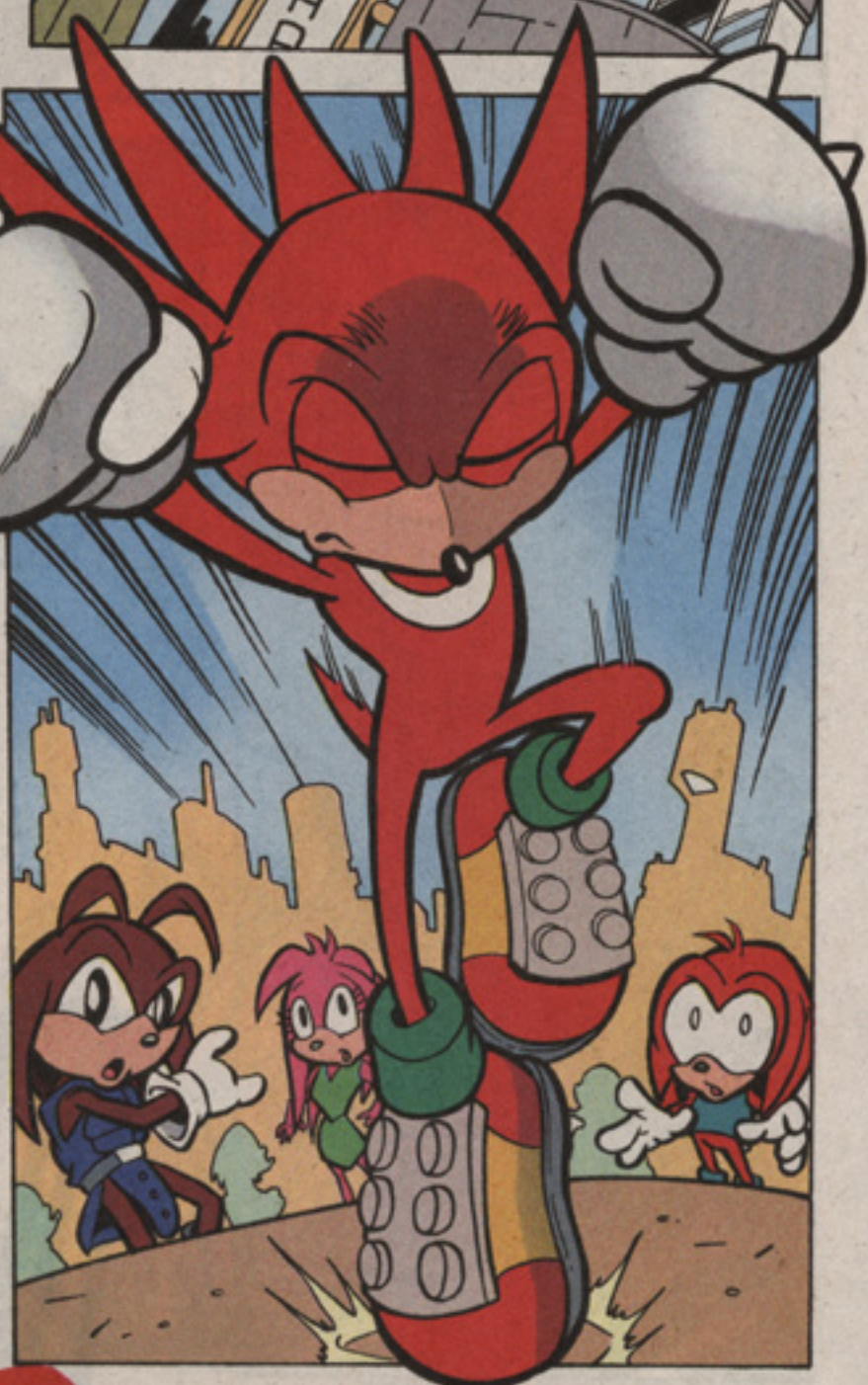
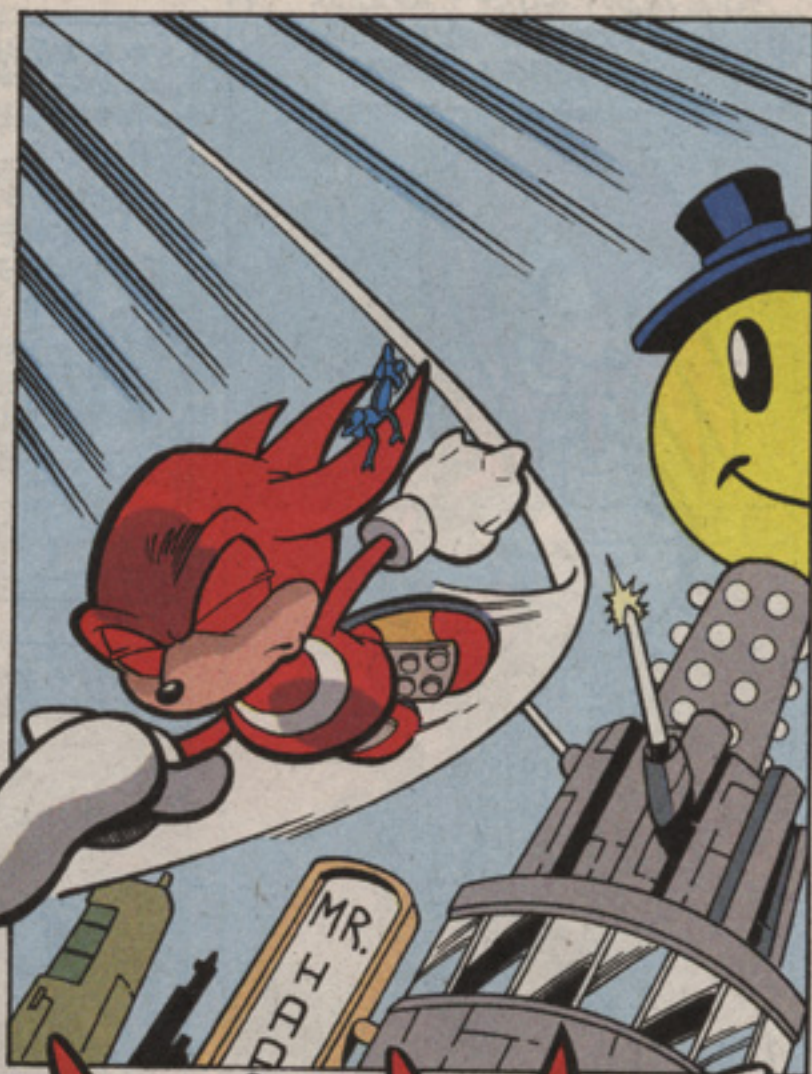
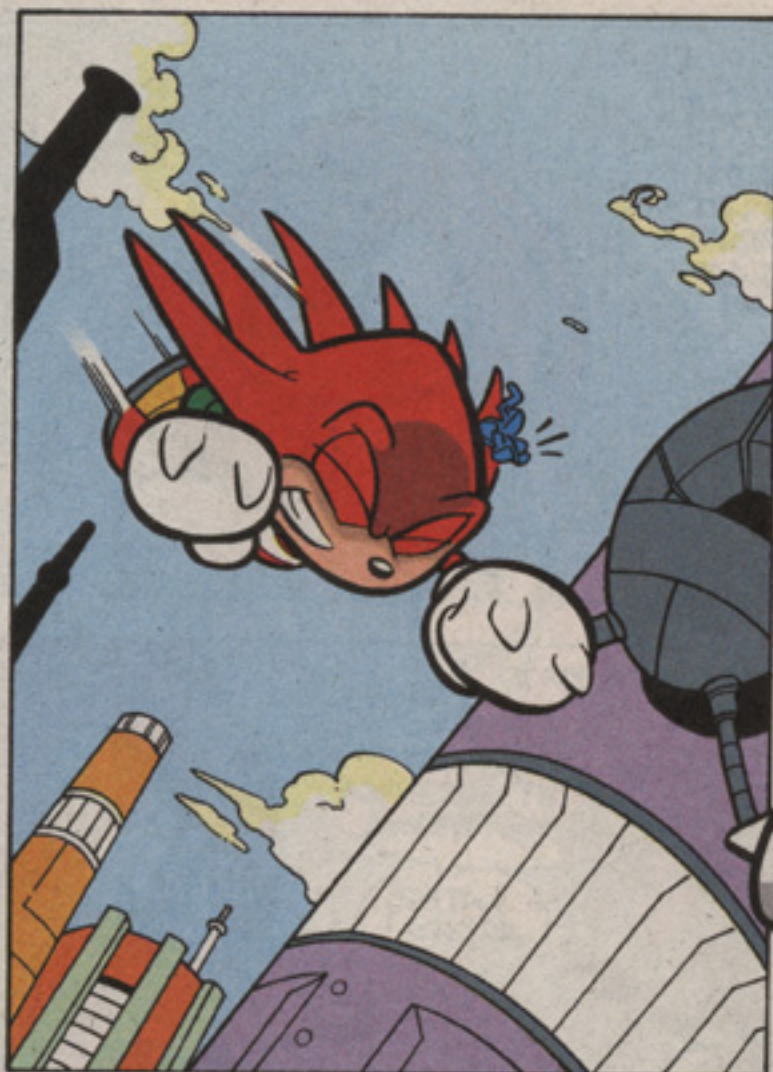


LATER?



YEAH--







IT
WORKED!

I COULD "SEE" MY FLIGHT
PATH BEFORE ME--AIDED BY
THE GUIDING STAR GEM
YANAR GAVE ME!*

* SEE KNUCKLES #12--JFG.



THIS STONE WOULD EXPLAIN HOW
I WAS ABLE TO KNOW MY WAY HOME
FROM THE BADLANDS!*

HOW'S
OUR BOY,
LOCKE?

*CHECK OUT KNUCKLES #15 AND
#16 FOR THE DETAILS--JUSTIN.



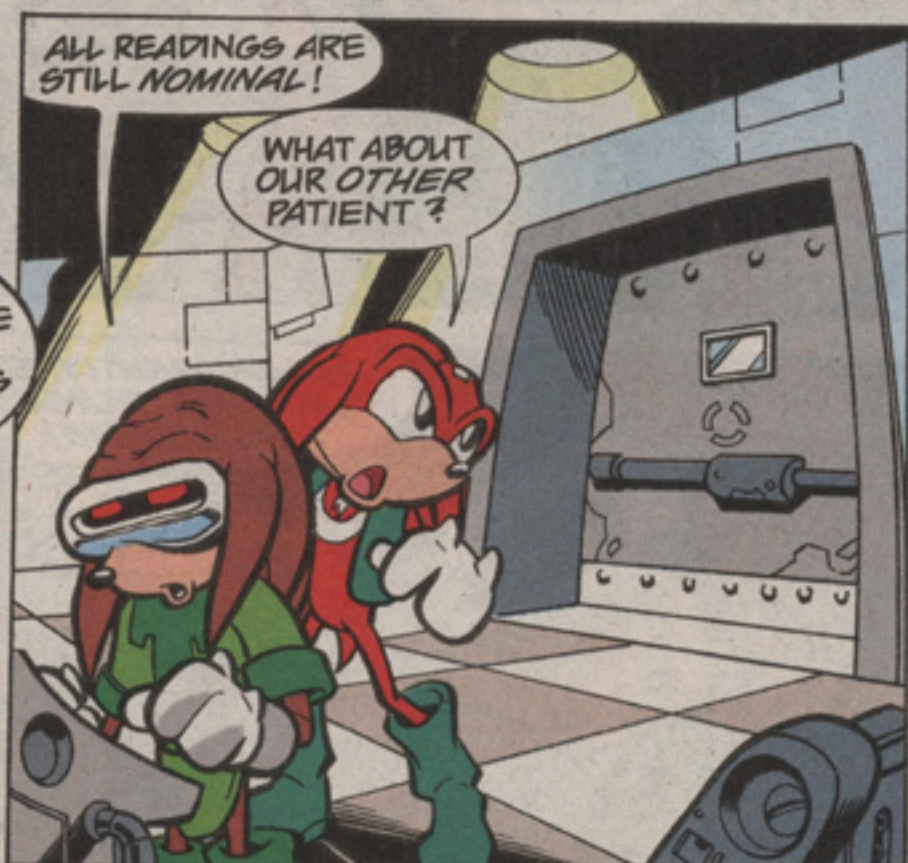
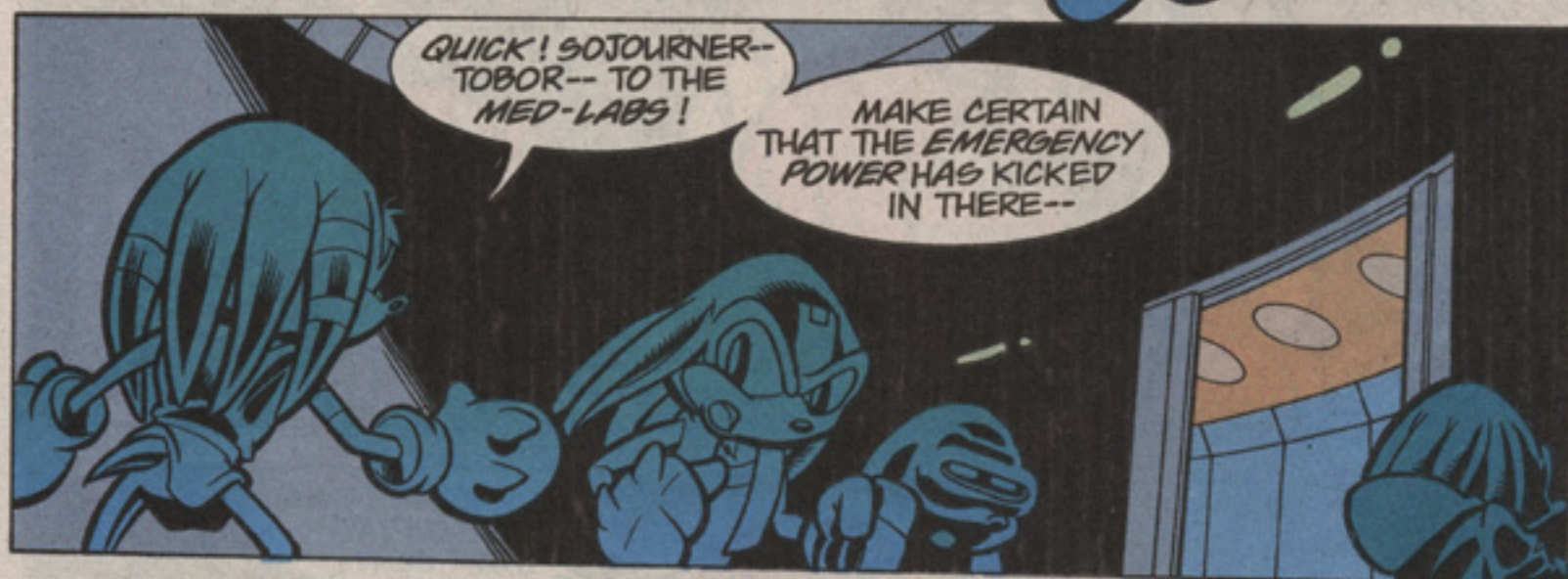
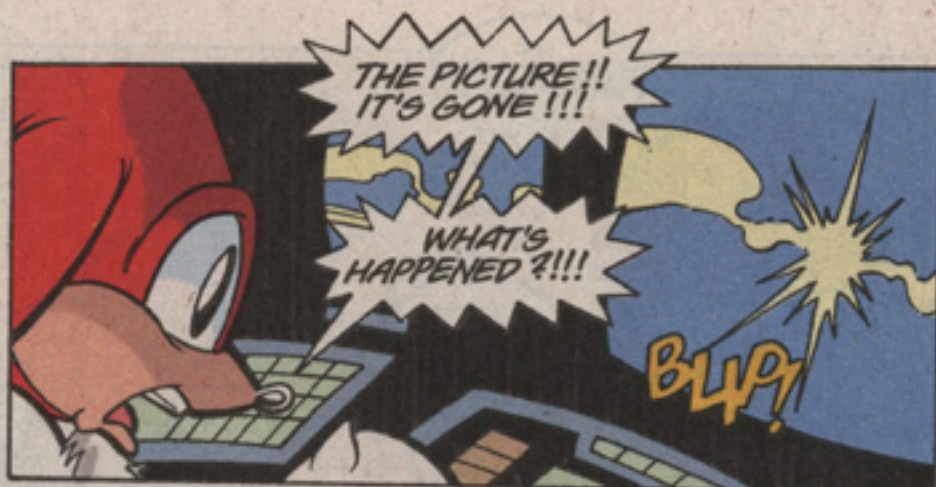
IN A VERY
CURIOUS MOOD,
GRANDFATHER
SOJOURNER!

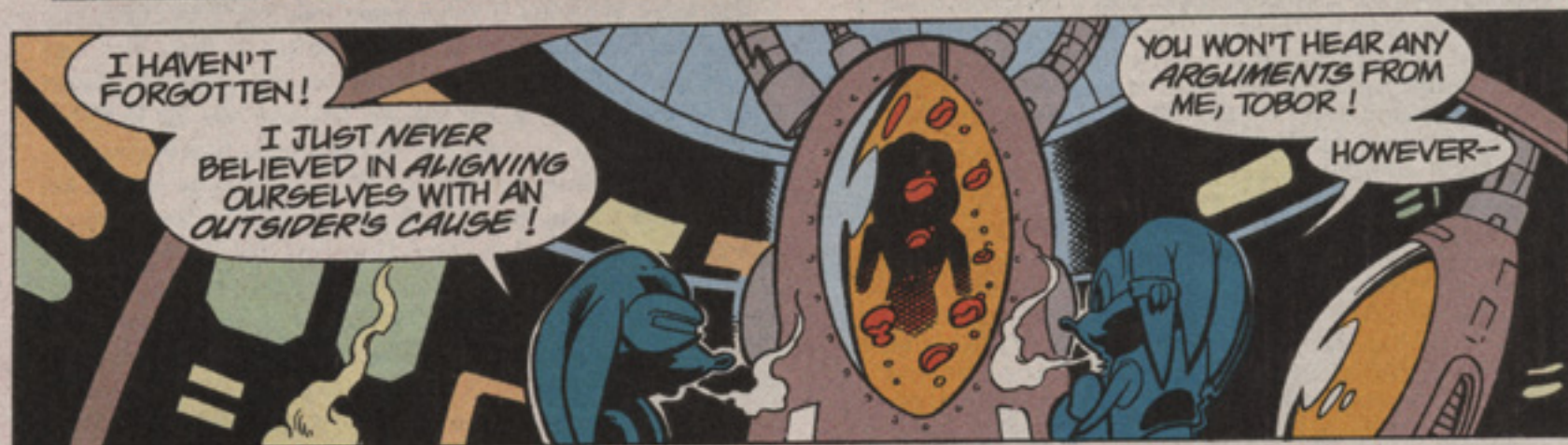
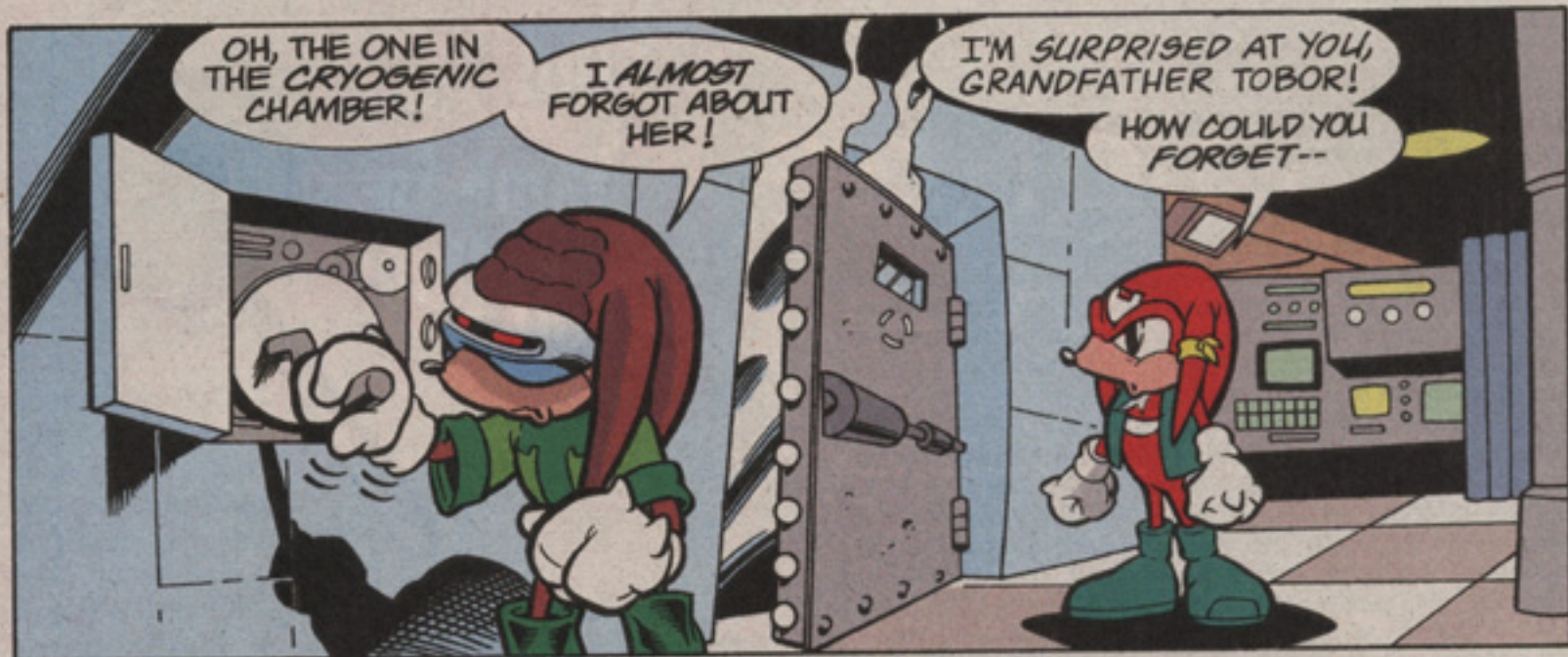
HE'S EXAMINING
THE GUIDING
STAR GEM--

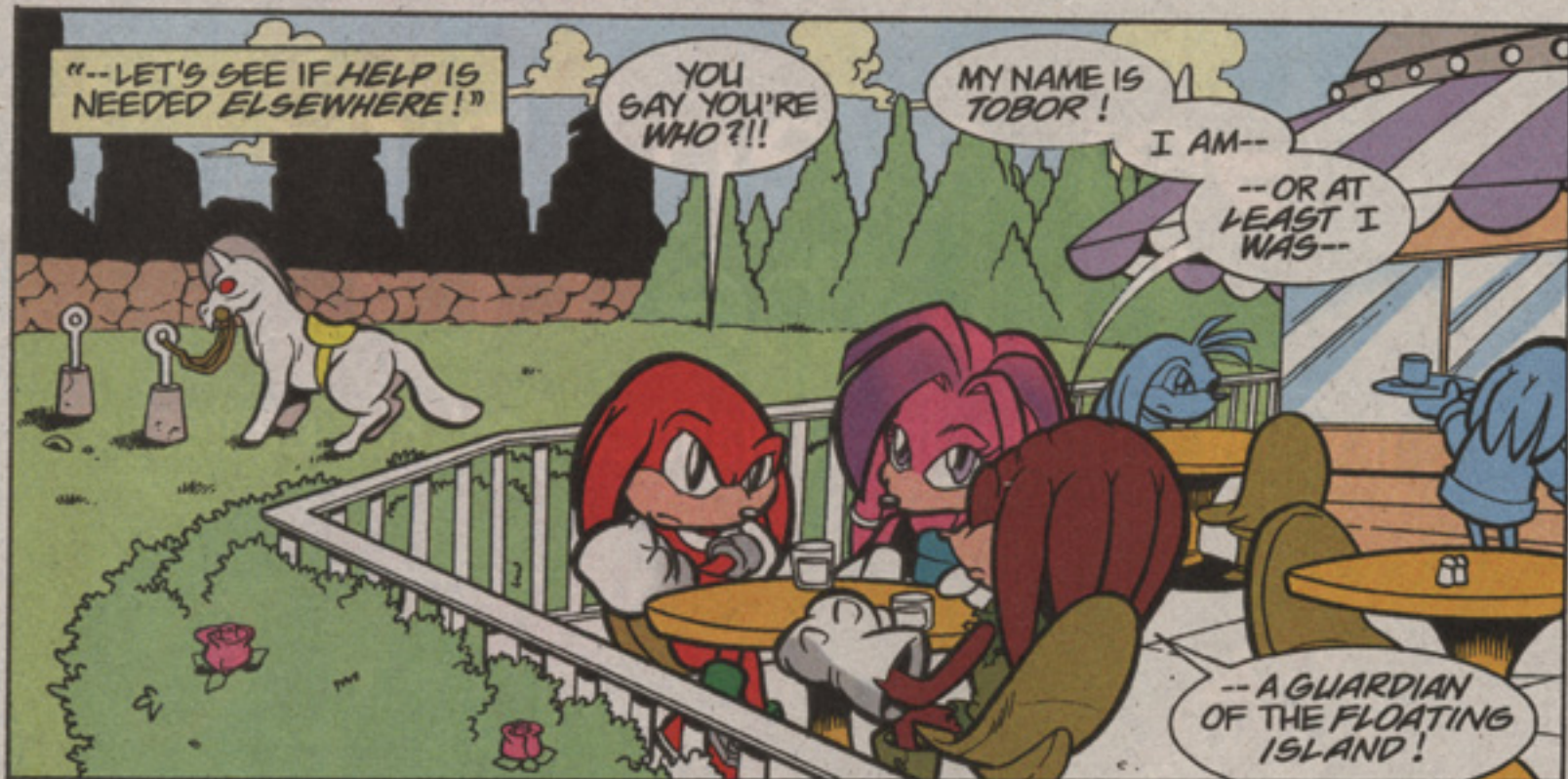


--AND APPARENTLY HE'S ON
THE VERGE OF UNLOCKING
ITS SECRETS!

WHO'S THAT
APPROACHING
KNUCKLES?







I WAS A MERE LAD OF TWENTY--NOT MUCH OLDER THAN YOU, I IMAGINE-- WHEN MY FATHER, HAWKING, HAD APPOINTED ME GUARDIAN IN HIS STEAD...

TOBOR, IT'S TIME YOU BECAME GUARDIAN!

YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF WORTHY OF THE TITLE!

"YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN MOTHER AND VON-CA! THEY WERE SO PROUD!"

"IT WAS HIS NEXT WORDS THAT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE..."

I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE FLOATING ISLAND!

IT'LL BE UP TO YOU TO LOOK OUT FOR OUR PEOPLE WHILE I'M AWAY!

BUT, FATHER, THE FLOATING ISLAND WAS DESTROYED BY THE DINGOES!*

IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, WE'D ALL BE GONERS!

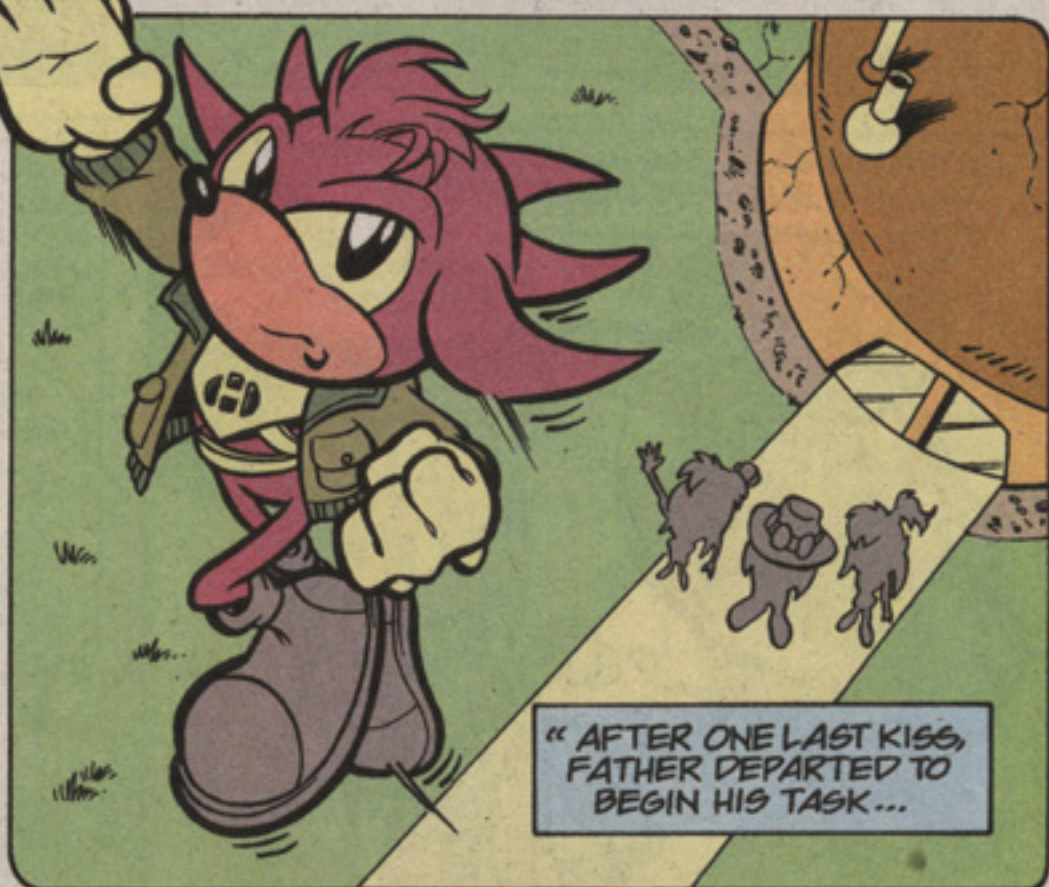
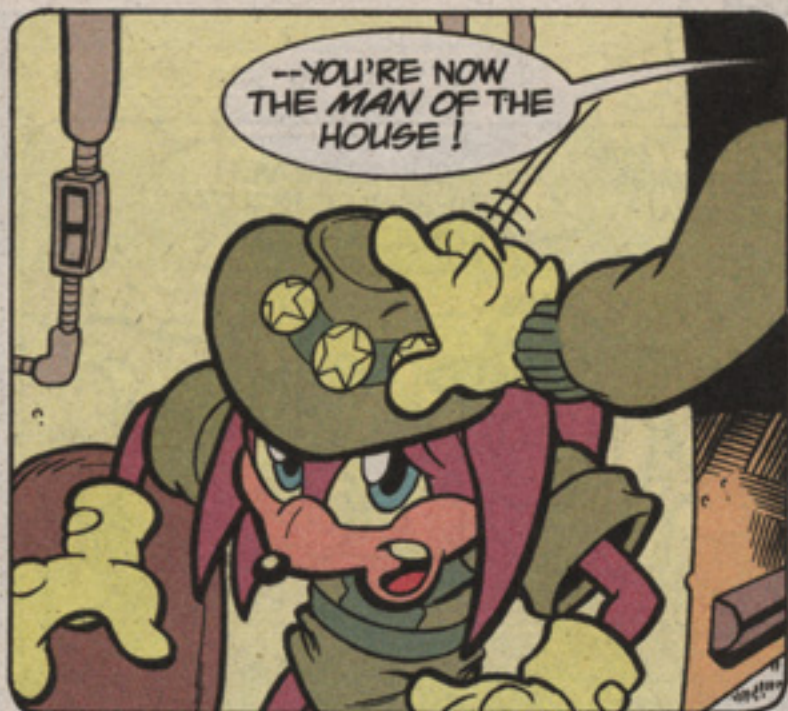
* AS CHRONICLED IN KNUCKLES#6-- HISTORIAN JUSTIN.

THE FLOATING ISLAND WAS DEVASTATED TOBOR-- BUT NOT DESTROYED!

IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO RESTORE IT--

-- AND I WON'T REST UNTIL ECHIDNAOPOLIS AND ITS PEOPLE ARE DELIVERED FROM THIS POCKET ZONE BACK TO OUR RIGHTFUL HOMELAND!

THAT MEANS--



"--AND MY LIFE AS A
GUARDIAN BEGAN!"

"IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE I
EXPERIENCED MY BAPTISM OF FIRE--"

"--OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS, WHERE
THE HYDROPONICS GARDENS HAD
BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO REPLACE THE
VAST TRACTS OF FARMLAND LEFT
BEHIND ON THE FLOATING ISLAND--"

"--FROM AN ENEMY BELIEVED LONG
DEFEATED-- THE DARK LEGION!"

"ON ONE QUIET
AFTERNOON, A RIP
IN THE FABRIC OF
THE DIMENSIONAL
BARRIER OPENED--
AND IN THEY
SWARMED--
LIKE LOCUSTS--"

--LED BY THEIR LEADER--
AN EVIL LEGIONNAIRE WHO
CALLED HIMSELF--

--MORITORI
REX!"

CITIZENS OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS--
ACCEPT YOUR BIRTHRIGHT!

RECLAIM
THE TECHNOLOGY
CREATED BY OUR
FOREFATHERS!

YOU'VE
ALREADY
TAKEN THE
FIRST STEPS
TOWARDS
DOING SO--

Post PEBBLES



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AWRK!!!
MORE
RULES?



(continued on facing page)

KNUCKLES™

Fan Art

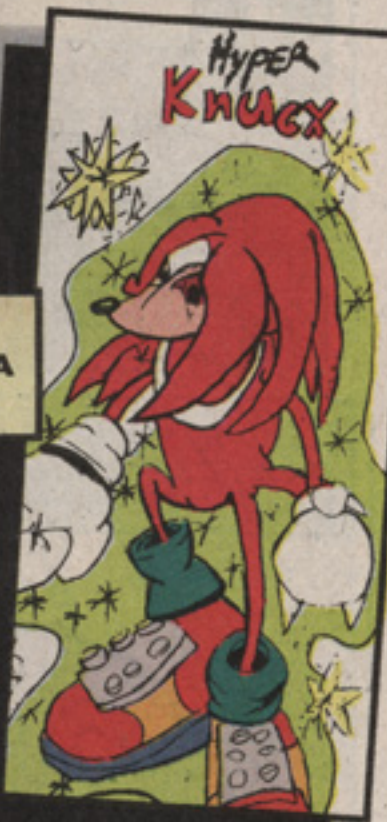
DANNY S.



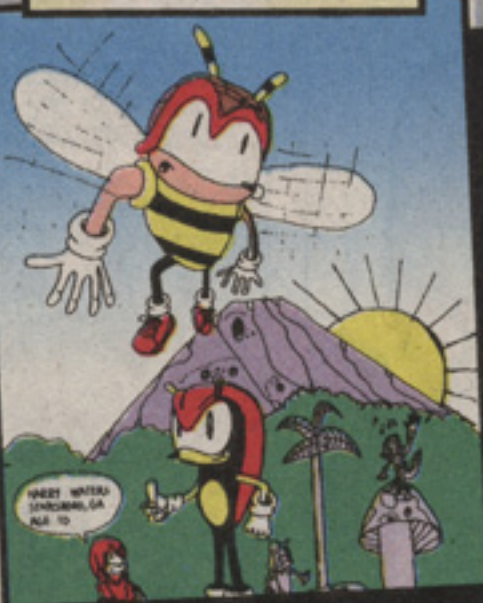
SHAWN BARHSDALE
AGE 15



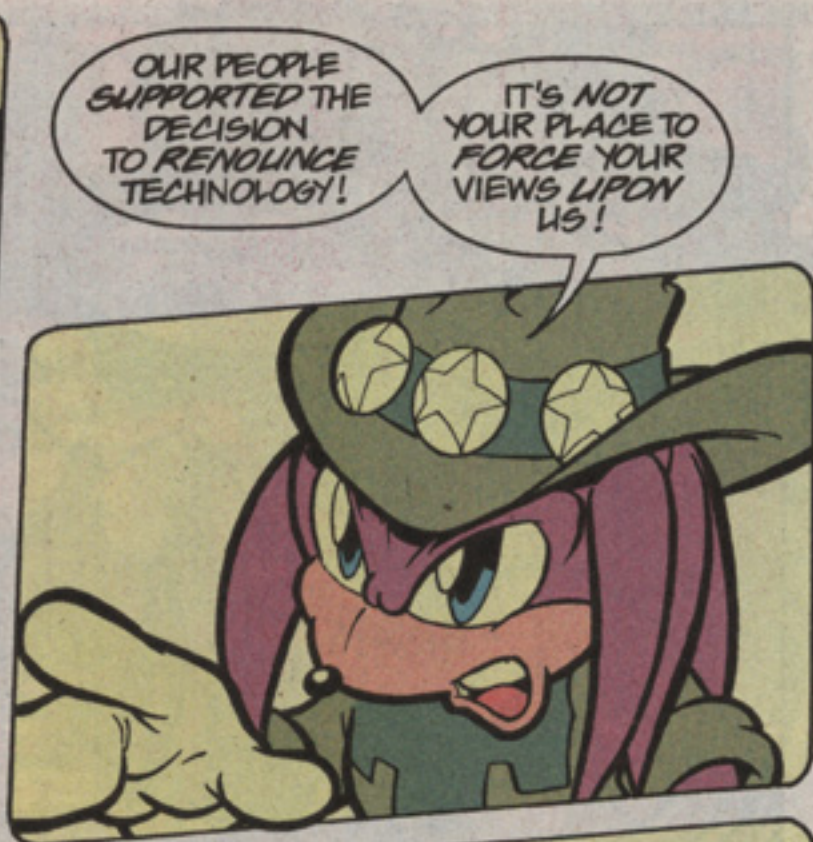
RICKY WINSOR
ONTARIO, CANADA
AGE 8



HARRY WATERS
STATESBORO, GA
AGE 10



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FAN ART #17
c/o ARCHIE COMIC
PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419
MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419



"IT WAS POINTLESS TO ARGUE, MORITURI REX REGARDED ANY OPINION, SAVE HIS OWN, AS INSIGNIFICANT!"

"THE RESULT WAS A BATTLE OF EPIC PROPORTIONS-- THE LIKE OF WHICH FEW HAD EVER SEEN OR EXPERIENCED--FOR THE VERY HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE ECHIDNA POPULACE!"

"LITTLE DID I REALIZE IT WOULD SOON TURN PERSONAL..."

YOU MUST BE A GUARDIAN!!!
A DESCENDENT OF STEPPENWOLF!!!

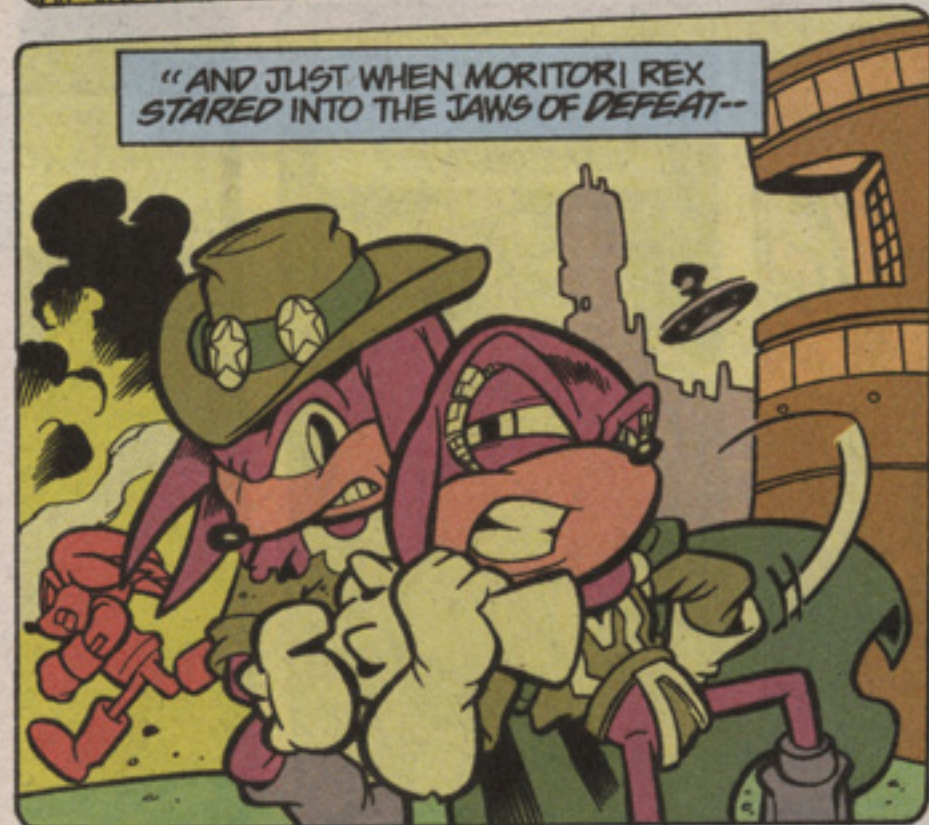
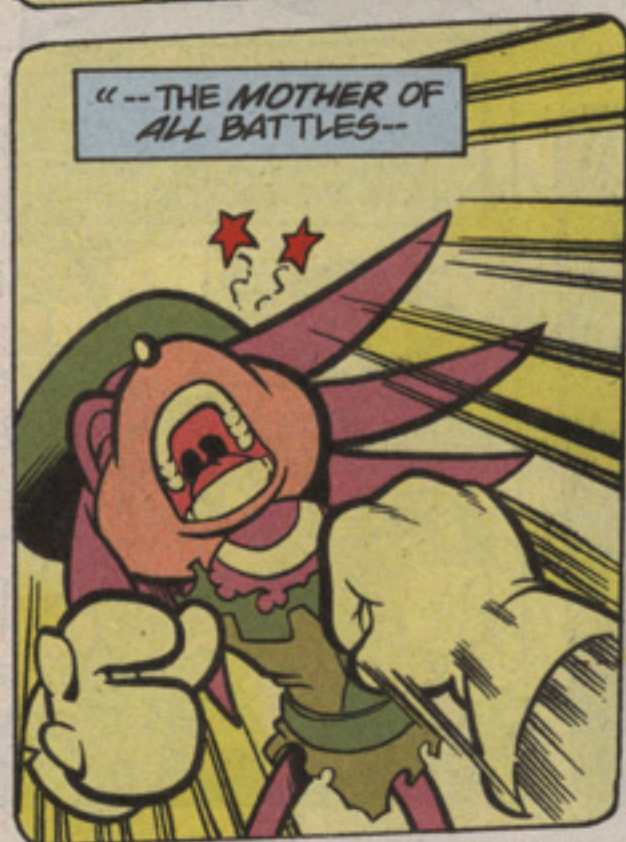
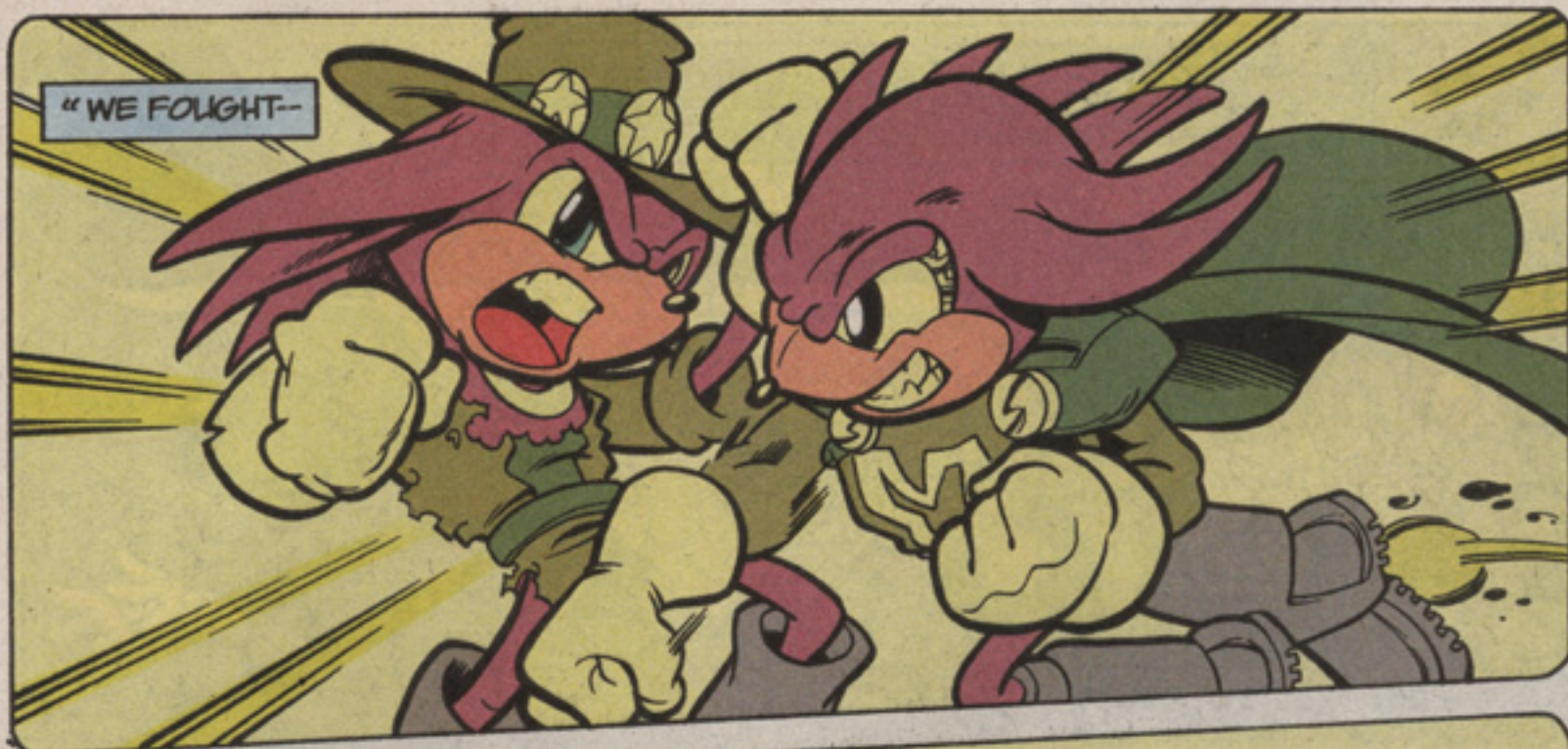
THAT MARK!

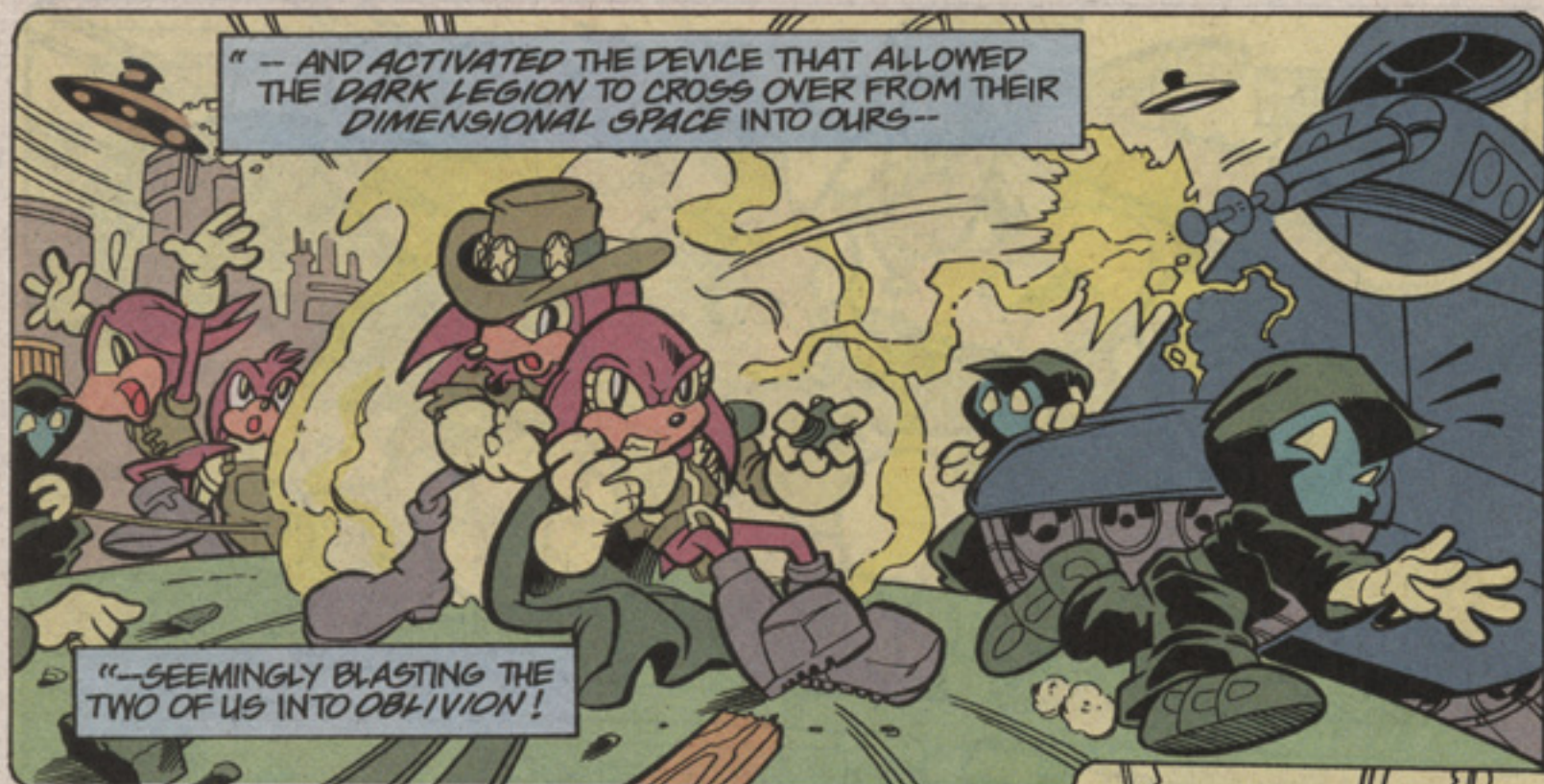
YOU HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, VILLAIN!

I HAVEN'T A CLUE WHAT YOU'RE YAMMERING ABOUT--

--SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHUT UP AND

FIGHT!

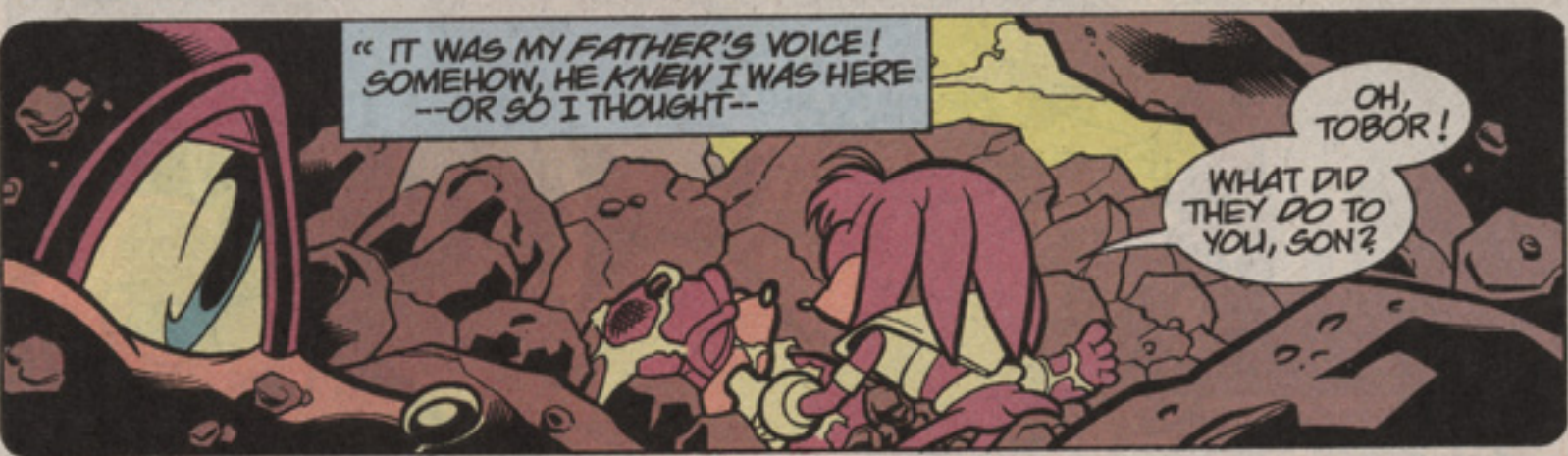






"--THEN I AWOKE--
STARTLED OUT OF
MY STUPOR BY A
FAMILIAR SOUND..."

TOBOR!!
TOBOR!!!



"IT WAS MY FATHER'S VOICE!
SOMEHOW, HE KNEW I WAS HERE
--OR SO I THOUGHT--"

OH,
TOBOR!

WHAT DID
THEY DO TO
YOU, SON?



"--BUT THEN HIS
WORDS SANK IN--"

"--AND I KNEW SOMETHING
WAS WRONG-- VERY WRONG!"

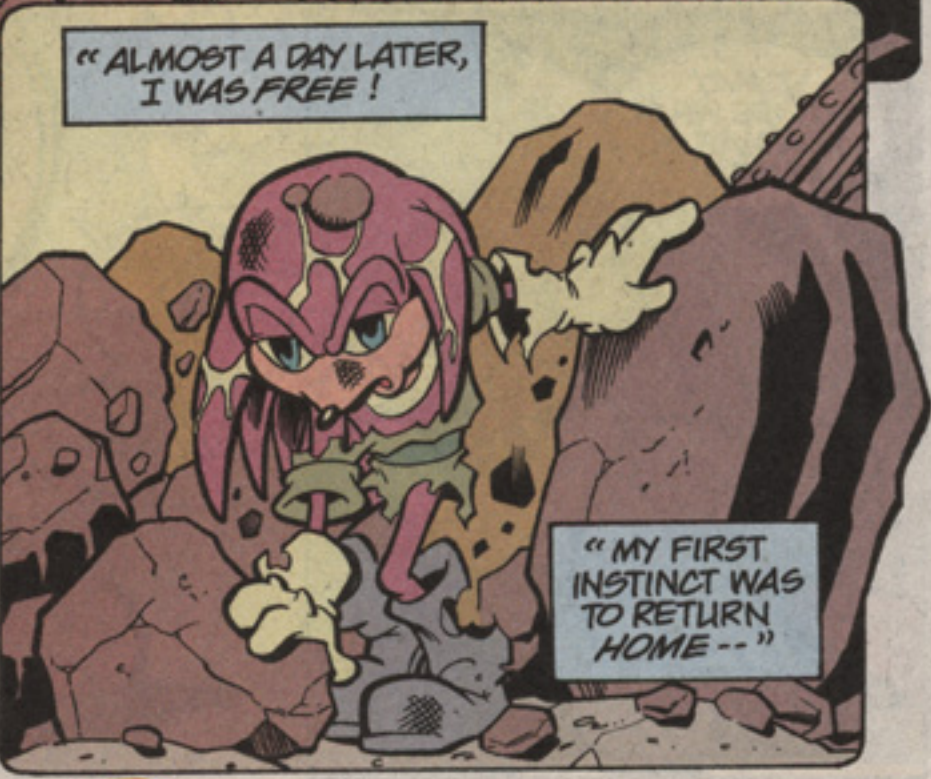


"I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW
I FELT WHEN I SAW MY FATHER
CARRY AWAY SOMEONE
HE BELIEVED TO BE ME..."

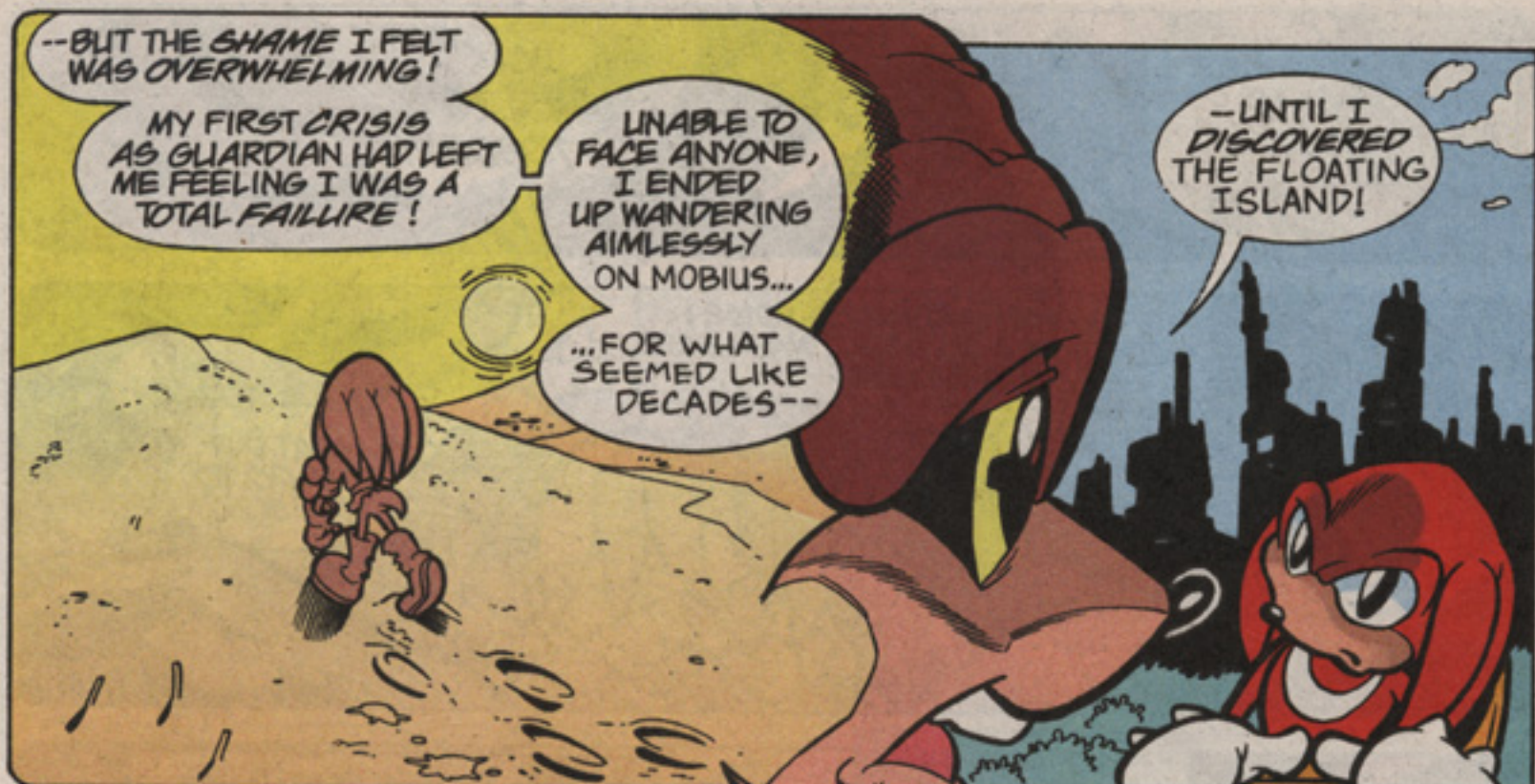
"ALMOST A DAY LATER,
I WAS FREE!"

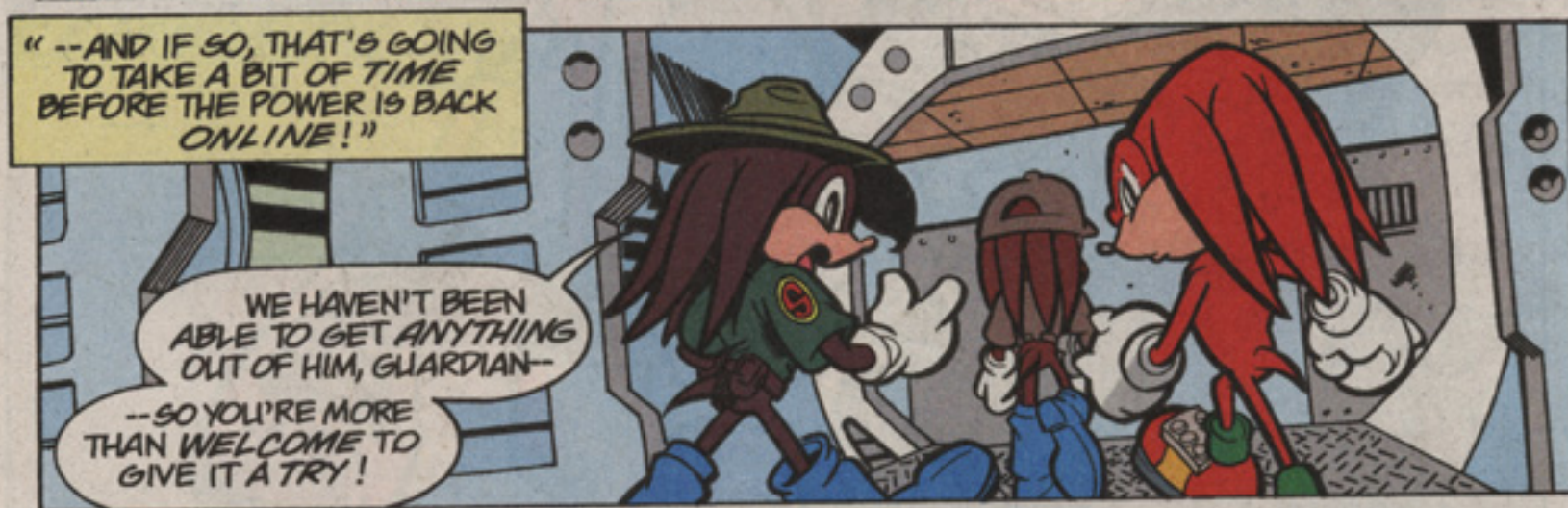


"WITH AN EMPTY FEELING
IN MY HEART, I STILL MADE
AN EFFORT TO ESCAPE MY
PREDICAMENT..."



"MY FIRST
INSTINCT WAS
TO RETURN
HOME--"



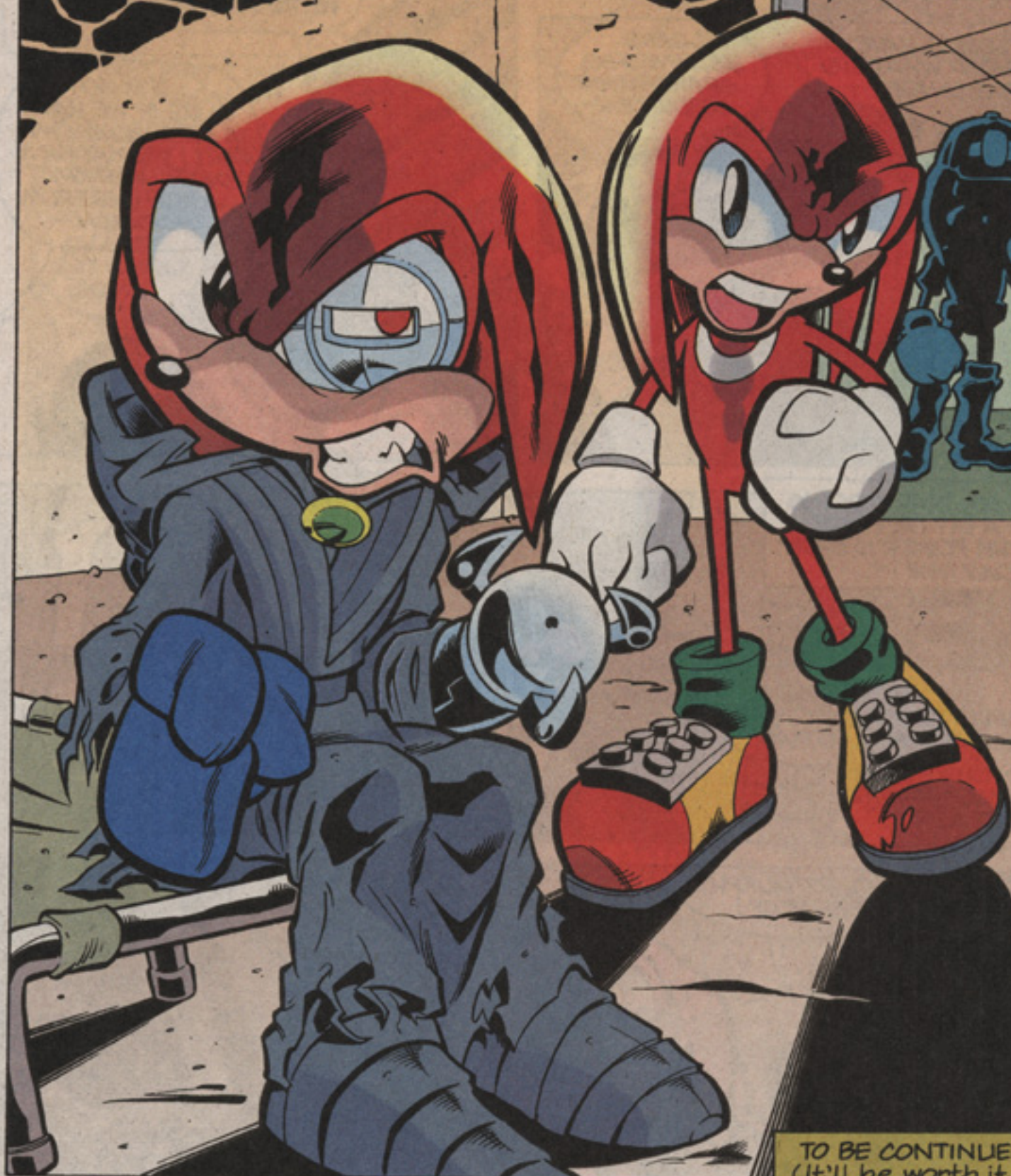


WELL, YOU'RE
WASTING YOUR TIME
IF YOU THINK I HAVE
ANYTHING TO SAY TO
YOU, KNUCKLES!

I
WOULDN'T
BET ON IT,
KRAGOK!

LOCK US UP,
MURPHY!

I'D LIKE
TO BE ALONE
WITH MY...DISTANT
COUSIN!



TO BE CONTINUED...
(It'll be worth it!)

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JUSTIN F. GABRIE EDITOR

DEBT OF HONOR

Next Month: Prepare yourself for the slugfest you've been waiting for since the first three issues: **Knuckles Vs. Kragok!** Desperate to learn the truth about his mysterious ancestor, Knuckles will get it out of his arch enemy — even if it kills them both. Written by Ken Penders. Art by Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #18 on sale September 1998!**

In other Mobian news...

In two weeks: You've been waiting for this moment and now it's finally here... **Ixis Naugus!!!** Sonic and Tails confront the sorceror savant to the trecherous regions of the **Southern Tundra**. Have our Freedom Fighting Duo reached Ixis in time? What secrets lie within its icy wake? Whatever it is, Ixis has traveled the world to find it and he won't let anything get in his way. Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Part four of St. John's "On His Majesty's Secret Service!" St. John's team are instructed on their first assignment. By Ken Penders and Art Mawhinney. **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #64 on sale August 1998!**



SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG #64
ON SALE AUG. 1998!



KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #18
ON SALE SEPT. 1998!

In other SEGA news...

And in one week: Picking up from last issue, **Nights** is on the brink of extinction. Meanwhile, **Elliot** and **Claris** continue their efforts to maintain not only **Nights** but the fabric of life itself. Only **Reala** stands in their way and he's no pushover! The exciting saga concludes in this issue by writer Karl Bollers with art by fan-fave **Patrick SPAZiante**, along with pencil finishes by **Sam Maxwell** and inks by **HARVO**. Don't forget about the **Spaz/Harvo/Heroic Age** computer-modeled cover! **NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #6 on sale August 1998!** To order, look for coupons in this very issue!



NIGHTS
INTO DREAMS #6
ON SALE AUG. 1998!

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

JUSTIN FREDDY GABRIE

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FISTFUL
OF LETTERS

#17

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